operations on 9.11.2006. In the domestic sector, only Indian Airlines Ltd. have trained their pilots for CAT-III operations. Airlines-wise status of pilots trained for CAT-II/CAT-III operations is as under:

	CATII		CAT IIIA		CAT-IIIB	
	P1	P2	P1	P2	P1	P2
Air India	141	139	44	12	36	19
Indian	154	114	39	12	90	31
Jet Airways	84	76	-	-	-	-
Air Sahara	09	04	-	-	-	-

The pilots of new airlines having CAT-II/III approval with previous employer are cleared for such operations after review by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, of currency of pilot's training and aircraft capability.

(e) Airlines Operators are persuaded on regular basis to train their pilots for ILS CAT-II/III operations. It is also insisted upon Airlines that Instructor/Examiner should be CAT II/III approved so that they, in turn, can train maximum number of pilots for CAT-II/III operations. The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued new guidelines on 21.11.2006 for aircraft operations during low visibility conditions and has drawn up the schedule of airlines during the low visibility period taking into consideration the number of CAT-II/III trained pilots available with the airlines.

Protection of ASI monuments and museums

*88. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI AJAY MAROO:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ajanta, which is among the first examples of early Buddhists architecture pertaining to 2nd century BC, is now facing problem of seepage;

(b) if so, what is the number of caves which are under threat of water seepage;

(c) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to protect this world heritage site;

(d) whether there is requirement of more security personnels for curbing the illegal trafficking and the protection of various ASI's monuments and museums in the country; and

(e) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Seepage of water is observe particularly in the verandas, in cave Nos. 1, 2, 12, 16, 17, 21, 23 and 26.

The conservation of the Ajanta cave is a continuous and multidisciplinary process. Archaeological Survey of India has undertaken detailed geo-technical studies on the caves and the surrounding hill slopes through the Geological Survey of India and the Central Water and Power Research Station, Pune. Contour drains are presently provided on the hill slopes for draining the suface water. Based on the recent recommendations of the Geological Survey of India an additional drain is being designed by the Central Water and Power Research Station.

The conservation of the caves is also monitored by an International Committee of Consultants which has been constituted under the ongoing Japan Bank & International Co-operation (JBIC) project.

(d) and (e) There is requirement of additional security personnel for protection of monuments and museums under the Archaeological Survey of India in the country. In addition to the available strength of 3463 Monument Attendants, the Archaeological Survey of India deploys private security guards (789 personnel) and also engages CISF (459 personnel) for the security of Taj Mahal, Agra and Red Fort, Delhi. The State police and home guards are deployed in some of the site museums. Archaeological Survey of India proposes to install modern security gadgets like CCTV, metal detectors and burglars alarms to augment the physical security system.

Tourists safety from riots and bomb blasts

*89. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of drastic fall in the number of tourists visiting Aurangabad and monuments in its vicinity like Ajanta and Elora caves, a Taj-Mahal Look-like Bibi-ka-Maqbara and recently discovered 50,000 year old meteorite impact Lonar Crater;